251 [*Transferred to the 8th August, 1988*].

India's Assistance in solving Afghan Problem

252. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Afghan President had stated that India can help form Government in Afghanistan after withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country;

(b) if so, whether India has agreed to help and assist Afghanistan in forming a coalition Government till the time new elections;

(c) if so, whether any conditions have been put forward by India; and

(d) what extent the Government of India agreed to help and assist the Afghanistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government has seen media reports to this effect.

(b) to (d) Since no such requests has been received, the question does not arise.

Unserviceable Ammunition supplied to the Army

253. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly one-third of about five per cent of the all India ammunition supplied to the Army by Ordnance Factories till December, 1986 have been declared unserviceable;

(b) if so, whether in spite of defects that were noticed in the ammunition in 1975 and 1980 no effective measures were taken to rectify the defects and ammunition produced side by side as the similar defects were noticed in the ammunition manufactured from 1981—84;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ammunition costing Rs. 10.42 crores was unacceptable to the users; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take against those held responsible for this and the total loss the exchequer had to face due to the negligence on the part of the concerned authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (d) In respect of the ammunition referred to in the above question defects were first noticed in 1975. They were again noticed in 1983-84 after repairs done upto 1981. In 1986 it was decided to survey all the ammunition supplied to the Services. So far about 85 per cent of the ammunition supplied tas been surveyed of which 4.96 per cent and 17.67 per cent were found to the unserviceable and repairable respectively. The value of stores found unserviceable is Rs. 1.578 crores.

A technical group set up in 1985, improved methods of retrieving the defective pieces. Rs. 10.42 crores was the value of ammunition segregated as repairable from time to time.

The investigations into the cause of the defects have revealed that the material used in the design had inherent limitations. The defects are not attributable to any production process, technical failure or quality control. The defects surfaced due to ageing factor entailing long storage. They did not surface at the design stage even after detailed tests for strength and chemical analysis were done including resistance to ultra violet light and stress factor.

Revamping of Planning Commission

254. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether radical changes are being effected in the Planning Commission to have an effective planning;